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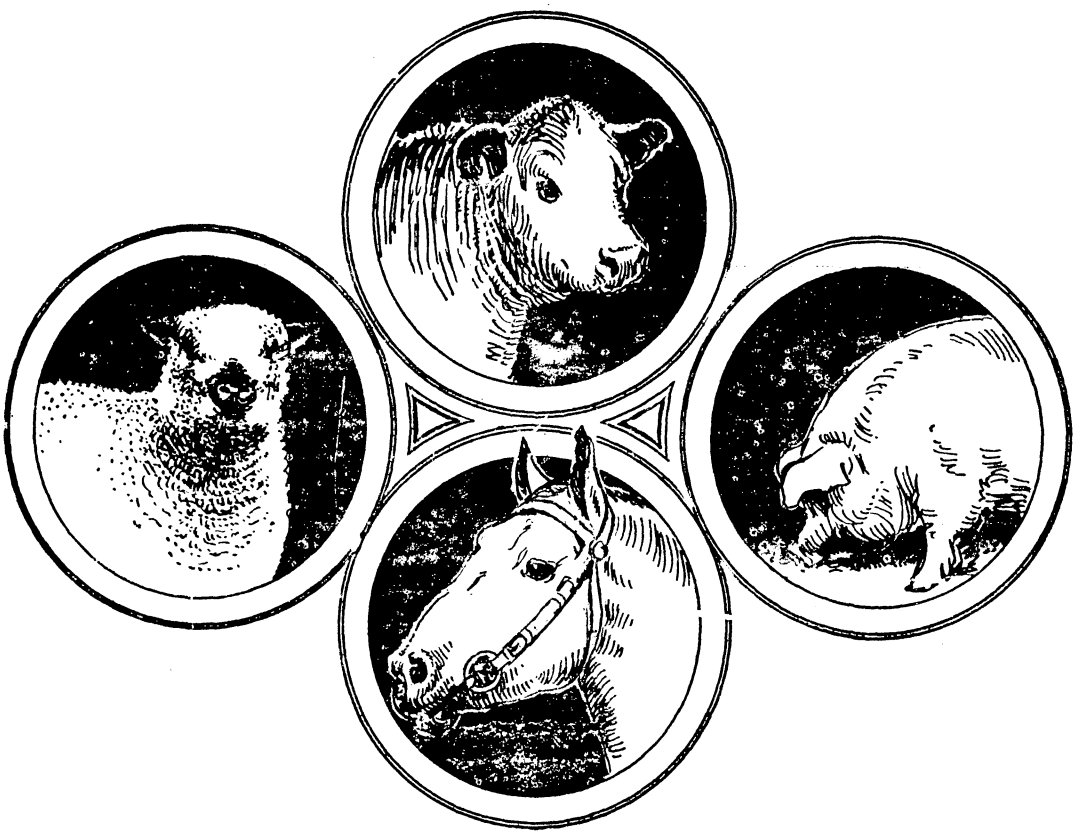
The EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON,
D.C.

Serial No. 24 December, 1931.

Give the livestock babies the very best care
For the colt of today will soon be the mare.
Thin, wobbly and weak is the little calf now,
But in two years' time she may be a great cow.
The lambs which are frolicking down on the green
Become sheep over night - or so it would seem.
The wee little pig you could put in a hat
Is a hog at six months, or just about that.
If you want your livestock to be what it should,
Don't ever neglect it in it's babyhood.

-- Rudolph Spires Allen

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D. C.

THE EXTENSION ANIMAL HUSBANDMAN

Issued quarterly by the Bureau of Animal Industry and the Office of Cooperative Extension Work, Cooperating.
C. D. Lowe, Senior Extension Animal Husbandman.

Serial Number 24 -- -- December, 1931

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THE AVERAGE IDAHO RANGE SHEEP OUTFIT

By E. F. Rinehart, Field Animal Husbandman

- - -

Just as there is no average citizen, average ranch, or average cattle outfit, there is no average sheep outfit. The table included in this article is the combined data on the yearly operations of the range sheep outfits that turned in cost-of-production data during the last six years. The table is the result of merely putting all together and summarizing what would be the average outfit.

The weights and prices of the lambs and wool are actual. The cost data are taken from the books of the cooperating outfits. Naturally, there is no uniform system of keeping books, but after working over these figures with committees and individual sheepmen, it is believed that they are fairly accurate. At least, these are the data that appear in the books of the sheep outfits.

Data are secured through committee work within the Idaho Wool Growers' Association. Two chairmen have served during this time. All members of the committee, with one exception, are range sheepmen.

In this study of the data of the averages of the combined outfits, both the system of early lambing in sheds and late lambing on the range are followed. The early outfits specialize in producing fat lambs that are marketed during the early summer. The ewes are well fed in the winter and lamb in sheds, on alfalfa hay and supplementary feeds. This custom prevails through the lower Snake River Valley, where alfalfa hay and other feeds are comparatively cheap.. Shed lambing is practiced in the lower altitudes because of the fact that the ranges are good only through the early part of the season, being hot and dry in late summer. This system of range operation requires liberal feeding and the increased expense is offset only by the saving of a higher percentage of lambs and an increased price for the sale of choice lambs. Range lambing is practiced in the higher altitudes. The ewes are fed a maintenance ration through the winter and lamb on grass. Operating expenses are less, but there are fewer lambs to market and a higher percentage are feeders. During a

three-year period when a careful study of the two systems was made, net returns were almost identical. While the returns per ewe from the early lambing districts were $2.51 per head greater than from the ewes in the late lambing districts, the expense per ewe was $2.38 greater.

A study of the data indicates that weather conditions greatly affect the condition and nature of the lambs. In 1925, with an ideal spring and good summer, the lambs averaged 78.5 pounds. In 1927, with a late spring but a good summer, the lambs averaged 78.1 pounds. However, they were far inferior to the 1925 crop of lambs which were sappy and exceptionally good. The 1927 lambs were larger, more growthy, but not as fat nor as good in comparison with the lambs of 1925, which had the benefits of good spring grazing. The 1927 lambs lacked this advantage and the shipments averaged three weeks later. In other words, the 1927 lambs were three weeks older than the 1925 lambs.

Weather Conditions

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929
Breeding Season	Good	Dry	Good	Dry	Good	Dry
Winter	Moderate	Moderate	Open	Moderate	Moderate	Severe
Spring	Good	Ideal	Good	Late	Good	Late
Summer	Dry	Good	Dry	Good	Dry	Dry

The Average Idaho Sheep Outfit

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	Total	Average
No. outfits	13	37	58	42	37	67	254	
No. ewes	123000	148000	189200	182000	166965	249581	1058746	4168.29
Expense per ewe:							Average	
Feed cost	$2.93	$3.43	$2.80	$3.27	$3.39	$3.86	$3.33	
Interest	.84	.93	.77	.65	.61	.47	.68	
Depreciation &loss	2.00	1.90	1.89	2.13	2.24	2.30	2.10	
All other expenses	3.53	4.11	3.87	4.19	-3.82	4.46	4.05	
Total expense per ewe	$9.30	$10.37	$9.33	$10.24	$10.06	$11.09	$10.16	
Lambs:								
Per cent matured	88.3	87.9	93.4	85.3	89.7	91.7	89.66	
Weight of lambs, lbs.	69.8	78.5	74.5	78.1	71.1	73.3	74.31	
Lbs. lamb per ewe	61.63	69.00	69.58	66.62	63.78	67.22	66.50	
Selling price per cwt.	$11.38	$12.58	$12.13	$12.29	$13.29	$11.85	$12.25	
Lamb return per ewe	7.01	8.68	8.44	8.19	8.48	7.97	8.16	

	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	Average
Wool:							
Weight fleece per ewe	8.6	7.9	9.0	8.6	9.3	9.0	8.8
Selling price per lb.	$.369	.416	.324	.324	.358	.302	.34
Wool return per ewe	$3.41	$3.29	$2.92	$2.79	$3.33	$2.72	$3.02
Lamb " " "	7.01	8.68	8.44	8.19	8.48	7.97	8.16
Total return per ewe	$10.42	$11.97	$11.36	$10.98	$11.81	$10.69	$11.18
" expense " "	9.30	10.37	9.33	10.24	10.06	11.09	10.16
Profit per ewe	$1.12	$1.60	$2.03	$.74	$1.75	**.40	$1.02
Av. per cent ewes lost	10.0	9.4	8.8	8.5	9.5	7.0	8.66

** Loss

Idaho lambs go to market fairly evenly throughout the year, starting in May. From May up to September the lambs consist of shed lambs. The shipments during the remainder of the year are mostly of the lambs born on the open range.

The movement of lambs is fairly seasonal. During the summer the movement is of early shed lambs. The lambs that are born later on the range start going to market in September and the big run is on in October and November. Most of the lambs shipped in November and December are off fall pastures. Feed-lot lambs are the light end out of the Idaho range lambs, also range lambs purchased in adjoining States.

Estimates of the numbers shipped from each system for the last six years are as follows:

Year Ending:	From the Summer Range	From Fall Pastures	From Winter Feed Lots
May 1, 1923	49.27%	34.46%	16.26%
May 1, 1924	73.73	14.15	12.12
May 1, 1925	79.78	15.70	4.52
May 1, 1926	83.15	9.13	7.73
May 1, 1927	81.59	10.21	8.20
May 1, 1928	72.04	8.55	19.41
May 1, 1929	86.84	5.71	7.45
May 1, 1930	77.03	13.24	9.73

"If you have an idea, hustle around and get another. Don't let it die of solitary confinement."

WHAT'S NEW IN THE STATES

Alabama

Augustus Forrest has resigned the position of assistant animal husbandry specialist. On September 1, Dr. R. S. Sugg was added to the staff in extension animal husbandry. He was formerly engaged in the same work but more recently has been doing resident teaching at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Colorado

Beginning December 1, L. H. Rochford is spending 60 days studying the cattle markets of the Pacific Coast.

Georgia

Because of shortage of funds Addison W. Simpson, Jr., has been transferred from specialist work to local work as county agent.

During the two-year period ended June 30, 1931, a total of 491 purebred bulls of the beef breeds and 828 females were placed in 84 of the 161 counties of the State, according to reports of county agents. During the same period 3,320 head of beef-type grade females were added to the herds of the same counties, -- W. F. Ward.

Indiana

A large crowd was attracted to the multiple-hitch plowing contest held in Henry County, October 27, not only local but from outside counties. This contest consisted of three classes, four-horse teams, hitched two and two; five-horse teams, hitched three and two; and six-horse teams hitched three and three. In each case, Talkington eveners, tie-ins and buck ropes were used. The classes were judged on horsemanship, quality of plowing and time of hitching and plowing. This contest came as a culmination of the year's extension program of multiple-hitch work, which included a central demonstration, conducted by P. T. Brown, to train community leaders in the construction and use of this hitch; circularization of all farmers

using four or more horses setting forth advantages of this method of hitching and announcing five local demonstrations; holding these demonstrations with the aid of trained local leaders; and individual assistance; follow-up publicity and finally, the plowing contest in which thirteen teams took part. This contest represented the cooperation and effort of the county Farm Bureau, Purdue Extension Department, Horse Association of America, local committees and business firms, and has done more to popularize the efficient use of horses than any other part of the year's activity.

Massachusetts

In addition to those mentioned in last issue as attending the meat cutting school at Amherst, the week of September 7, Geo. C. Herring of Virginia, Chas. A. Burge of Pennsylvania and H. B. Young of Connecticut, all extension animal husbandry workers in their respective States, were present and took the course.

Michigan

L. H. Blakeslee, discontinued his part-time extension work in animal husbandry on July 1. His territory was the upper peninsula.

Minnesota

H. G. Zavoral who spent a year in Soviet Russia in the employ of that government as a swine specialist, has returned to his old position at the University of Minnesota. A. E. Engebretson who acted as swine leader during Mr. Zavoral's absence is now taking advanced work in the College of Agriculture.

"Good farme and well stored, good housing and drie
Good corne and good dairie, good market and nie
Good shepherd, good tilman, good Jack and good Gill
Make husband and huswife their coffers to fill."
--Thomas Tusser, 1573.

No great undertaking was ever built on the demerits of the opposition. — A. F. Sinex.

THE HORSE AS A SOURCE OF FARM POWER IN MISSOURI

By. T. A. Ewing,
Extension Assistant Professor of Animal Husbandry

Teaching Missouri farmers that they again depend largely on horses for farm power has been a rough and rugged road. However, during the present year, we have witnessed an unusual interest in horses as a source of farm power. Perhaps the main reason is that we appreciate a good physician most when we are the sickest.

Farmers are beginning to realize that they are destroying their own market through the decreased use of horses. Just recently a man attending one of our multiple-hitch demonstrations stated that he received $36.00 for two cars of good hay. The fuel for tractors and the initial tractor costs cannot be produced on the farm. Depreciation is much more rapid on tractors than on horses. A twelve-hundred-pound horse in a year will be the source of manure having a value of $35.00 if the manure is properly handled. And the adaptability of horse power to work required presents sufficient argument for horses as a source of farm power on most farms in Missouri.

The inability satisfactorily to hitch enough horses to pull the load involved has caused many farmers to resort to tractor power. As a solution to unsatisfactory hitches and insufficient power the multiple hitch has been demonstrated on many farms. The progress of the multiple hitch was slow because many of our best county agents failed to see far enough ahead to take the recommendation seriously till this year.

Two plowing contests were held in October with the cooperation of the Horse Association of America and county farm bureaus. Eight hundred people attended one of these contests and they saw four 4-horse teams, four 5-horse teams, four 6-horse teams, and two 8-horse teams at work. They saw sufficient power to pull the plows without side-draft on the plow or crowding of the horses, and furrows seven inches deep in very dry ground that were straight enough for 80 rods to stretch a string in, and the trash all covered. The value of such a demonstration is shown by the results obtained in Vernon County, where the agent picked twenty men and brought them to see this contest and a month later knew of fifty farmers who had rigged the hitch. He

put on some demonstrations with the help of his animal husbandry specialists to hurry the good cause along.

A specific case showing the value of adequate power was observed in Johnson County in 1930. Clarence Shepard of that county plowed 100 acres of land for corn with six mules, hitched three and three. This ground was plowed 8 and 9 inches deep. He plowed 20 acres with four mules abreast, using the same 12-inch gang. This ground was plowed between 5 and 6 inches deep. The deeper-plowed land yielded 45 bushels of corn last year as dry as it was and the shallow plowed land yielded 30 bushels.

Another phase of satisfactory horse power is the feeding and care of work horses. In order to teach farmers this, it has been necessary to obtain some cost records. Russell Green, Bates County, began a record on nine horses March 1, 1931. For the first 6 months period the feed cost per horse was $21.85. The cost by months shows how pasture decreases feed costs:

Month	Horse Hours	Feed Cost
March	866	$49.75
April	845	55.35
May	833	31.50
June	1144	26.20
July	530	18.90
August	224	15.90

The feed cost per horse hour amounted to 4-2/5 cents. Mr. Green uses the multiple hitch.

Until this year we have had few farmers interested in hitches larger than six horses. At a demonstration in Lafayette County in late November there were three men that requested the hitch for eight and nine horses to use on 3-bottom tractor plows.

The small cash outlay involved in making the multiple hitch and the satisfactory job resulting are causing many farmers to more fully appreciate horse power. The production of better horses and better horsemanship and management are problems worthy of our best mettle.

You will make more friends in a week by getting yourself genuinely interested in other people than you can in a year by trying to get other people interested in you.

--Albert Edward Wiggam.

THE LIVESTOCK LOSS PREVENTION ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

By John W. Wuichet, Animal Husbandry Specialist

For many years the only agencies which were apparently interested in prevention of livestock losses, other than those which occurred on the farm, were the railroads through their claim departments. Almost eight years ago a movement was started largely by the agricultural agents of the railroads operating in Ohio, towards an organization of all agencies interested in the production, transportation, marketing and processing of livestock, for the purpose of coping with the problem of livestock losses.

As a result in 1925, such an organization was formed consisting of representatives of producers, railroads, stock yards companies, commission companies, cooperative livestock marketing associations, packing companies, educational institutions and the farm press. Later, representatives of livestock insurance companies and humane societies have become affiliated with the association.

The fact that the association has continued not only to exist but to increase its interests and activities is sufficient evidence that it is performing a worth-while function in the livestock industry. Furthermore, as a direct result of the work of the Ohio association, a similar one was formed in Michigan and at present, plans are being formulated to organize the work so that it will be more or less national in scope.

Perhaps the items which will be of particular interest are, how is the organization sustained and what does it do besides hold an annual meeting. Sustaining membership in the association is placed at $5.00 but any company or agency may take as many memberships as desired, several companies supporting to the extent of 10 memberships. Representatives of educational institutions are granted associate memberships with full voting powers but without charge, the educational service rendered by such institutions being considered sufficient contribution. To secure adequate financial support has not been difficult.

The real function of the association is to disseminate seasonal and general information on the economic phase of livestock losses and the means of prevention or control. This is

accomplished in a variety of ways which are being added to as new ideas come up. News articles appear throughout the year in the daily as well as the farm press. Large colored placards dealing with some loss prevention items have at some time been placed in practically every shipping point in the State and smaller posters and pamphlets have been available each year for more general distribution.

The association maintains one large electrical exhibit (in which the Michigan Association has part interest) for use at county and State fairs and other large gatherings of livestock men. In addition, a smaller exhibit has been available for lesser gatherings and where electricity is not available. These exhibits are changed from time to time so that they may be used more than once in the same locality.

One year an essay contest on the subject of "Livestock Loss Prevention" was sponsored by the association for students in vocational agriculture. For the past two years a contest for the reduction of losses for livestock shippers has been fostered by the association and the interest displayed in it seems to point it being made an annual affair.

The annual meeting is probably the least important function of the association. However, at each such meeting an unusually strong program is presented by men of national reputation in their lines of work. At the 1931 meeting, over 100 persons were in attendance and nine different States were represented in the gathering.

The extension specialists in livestock marketing and animal husbandry are both members of the board of directors because we believe that the association is performing a function which is in line with good extension teaching and that it is rendering a real service in the field of livestock loss prevention. These specialists furnish quite a little of the publicity material for the use of the association and for several years have carried a joint project, one phase of which has been livestock loss prevention in all of its phases.

No man will ever be a big executive who feels that he must, either openly or under cover, follow up every order he gives and see that it is done--nor will he ever develop a capable assistant. -- John Lee Mahin.

THE LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI MARKET HOG SHOW

By M. M. LaCroix,
Louisiana Extension Animal Husbandman

- - -

Early in the spring season of 1931, a strictly market hog show was planned in cooperation with the livestock marketing agencies of New Orleans. The reason for this proposal can be explained by the fact that registered hogs are shown as a part of the livestock exhibit at agricultural fairs and banners, ribbons and other evidences of awards are displayed to the attention of visitors while the pork demands of the consumer are forgotten and a large majority of the city, town, and even the rural people look for the biggest hog in the barn. Swine production for breeding purposes in such instances overshadows the "porker." Interest in market hogs was lagging; so a gala day for the farmer's pig was arranged.

The stockyard company agreed to turn over pens for use without charge, and to feed the exhibited hogs for two days free as their contribution towards the show. The commission companies and wholesale meat dealers subscribed $140 in cash for premiums. The extension animal husbandmen of Louisiana and Mississippi, through their county agents, were to encourage farmers from the surrounding territory to fit and exhibit porkers. The exhibitors were limited to residents of the two States, and had to bear the transportation costs of their exhibits. Purebreds or grades, barrows or gilts could be shown. Exhibitors were limited to not more than two entries in any one class, nor could one animal be shown in more than one class. The following premium list was prepared:

CLASS I

Individual fat hogs ranging from 150 pounds to 225 pounds.

1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.
$20	$15	$10	$5	$4	$3

CLASS II

Individual fat hogs ranging from 230 pounds to 350 pounds.

1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.
$15	$10	$5	$4

CLASS III

Pen of three fat hogs exhibited by one exhibitor -- the weight of the individual hogs making up the pen not to be less than 150 pounds nor more than 350 pounds.

1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	5th.	6th.
$25	$10	$5	$4	$3	$2

Specials Contributed by the
New Orleans Association of Commerce

1. To the county agent from whose parish or county there are the largest numbers of exhibitors -- $10.00

2. To the county agent whose exhibitors win the largest amount in cash premiums (provided he is not the winner of Special Number 1, in which case Special Number 2 will be paid to the second place in this class) -- $10.00

A judging committee composed of the head of the Animal Industry Department of the Louisiana A. & M. College, a butcher buyer, a wholesale buyer, and a commission salesman had to agree on the placing in each class before awards were made.

The newspapers were generous with publicity and on the morning of the show The Times-Picayune ran an editorial, the first paragraph of which read:

"Today's first annual hog show at Arabi promises to atone a sin of omission too long chargeable against New Orleans. Ever since Bienville's time we have been holding exhibitions in which we have displayed almost everything except lack of interest, but only recently we seem to have discovered that we have overlooked the noble porker. So today, championed by state and local experts, including Louisiana State University scientists, he comes into his own."

There were 56 hogs exhibited in the first hog show, limited to market animals, held in Louisiana. Eight parishes and counties were represented by 35 exhibitors. After the award was made in a class, one of the judges explained the placing so that the visitors would have a better knowledge of the market demands.

A special exhibit of 32 hogs by the Louisiana State University and A. M. College added to the show. The exhibit

demonstrated the profit-making possibilities of long-bodied hogs as compared to the short, chuffy type. Included as part of the exhibit were placards giving results of the value of pastures in feed tests carried on at the institution.

After the premiums were awarded, and before an applauding crowd of more than 150 persons, all the exhibited hogs were sold at public auction. The first-place light barrow was bid in by a butcher at 25¢ a pound, and he also bought the first-place heavy hog for 18¢ a pound. The first-place pen of three brought 10¢ a pound. All told, the 88 hogs sold in one hour and fifteen minutes for a total of $1,303.86 with 6¢ a pound being the lowest bid, while Chicago's top for the same day was $5.55 per hundredweight.

The show and auction were a success in every way, and promise to be an annual affair. Farmers in Louisiana have called on the extension service to assist in making selections of brood sows and boars for the purpose of getting promising pigs for the 1932 show.

"Luck is another name for pluck,
To try things over and over,
Patience and Skill, Courage and Will
Are the four leaves of luck's clover."

1931 NATIVE LAMB IMPROVEMENT RESULTS

Missouri again won highest honor in the native lamb improvement project sponsored by certain packing and marketing agencies operating in the mid-west area. West Virginia finished in second place, Michigan third and Virginia fourth. The high-scoring county was Ozark in Missouri, while second and third places were won by Lewis and Greenbrier respectively in West Virginia. Other States competing were Illinois and Ohio. J. D. Harper of the National Live Stock Producer, Chicago, acts as secretary and contact man for the various interested agencies.

Revised rules for governing the project in 1932 have already been distributed. The awards will be made on the basis of accomplishments in the use of purebred rams and in docking and castration.

1931 BIG-TEAM PLOWING MATCHES

By E. T. Robbins, Illinois Livestock Extension Specialist

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Three big-team plowing matches were suggested to be held in Illinois in 1931. The proposal was presented at the farm advisers' conferences last fall and Piatt, McLean and Sangamon Counties decided to try this new feature of the big-team project. At a winter meeting in each county the plan was explained and local committees were decided upon as follows: Grounds, parking, concessions, finances, entries, judges, and police. The Horse Association of America agreed to give $100 toward the prizes in each county. The prizes offered in each contest totaled about $200, with four prizes in each class and $20 to $30 for first prize.

In July an agreement was reached among the three counties to hold the plowing matches on three successive Fridays in September; namely, September 4, 11 and 18. In each county at that time the committees were appointed, a location selected for the match, and general local arrangements completed.

Piatt County

The Piatt County event was held on Friday, September 4 with classes for 5, 6 and 8-horse teams and 4 prizes and 4 entries in each class. The lands were 40 rods long which seems to be a good length since the teams never get far away from the crowd. The attendance was about 800 people. Everyone seemed interested. The farm adviser, S. S. Davis, expressed himself as well pleased with the event and local committeemen handled their part of it well.

This plowing match was held on the farm of Elmer Lamb, three miles northwest of Bement.

McLean County

The McLean County match was held on Friday, September 11 with classes for 6-horse teams with 3 entries, 8-horse teams with 3 entries; and 12-horse teams with 2 entries. So many farmers use 5-horse teams there that the larger teams were purposely selected for the event.

The lands were 80 rods long which seemed to be longer than

was desirable. A space of 15 steps was left at each end for turning and for spectators. Space of about 15 rods wide was left on one side of the field in which to park cars and to place the refreshment stand. Two home bureau units did a rushing business at the refreshment stand. The crowd numbered about 2,000 people, mostly men, and all of them showed great interest in the event.

The local arrangements were well handled. Ten men on saddle horses directed operations and kept the corwd out of the way of teams. This was a very hot day and so teams were allowed time out for resting. No horse was injured.

After the plowing match an unbroken colt was hitched in the rear rank of an 8-horse team and worked one round. A 5-horse outfit was demonstrated and also a 10-horse outfit was shown.

The 10-horse team was a part of the outfit of E. E. Bane who farms 410 acres with 12 horses, uses the 12 in one team for plowing. He won the 12-horse class with this outfit having the highest score of anyone in the match. His 10-horse outfit included a tandem disk with a harrow behind just as he uses it in the spring when he needs one pair of horses for corn planting.

Visitors were present from all the adjoining counties. The interest of the people was keen. They paid close attention to all explanations and studied the outfits closely. The outfits were good ones. The farm adviser, R. J. Laible, was pleased and a number of committeemen said that this feature of the farm bureau work surpassed their expectations. About 1,000 men took home with them copies of circular 355, "Big Teams on Illinois Farms."

This plowing match was held on the farm of Mathew Richardson, two miles north of Ellsworth.

Sangamon County

The Sangamon County plowing match was held on Friday, September 18 with classes for 5-horse teams with 4 entries, 6-horse teams with 3 entries, and 8-horse teams with 3 entries. The lands were 40 rods long. Some of the outfits were not as well arranged as in the previous contests.

The attendance was about 500 people. They displayed

much interest in the outfits and in the work which was done and paid close attention to explanations which were made.

This match was held on the farm of Alfred Odiorne, 6 miles south of Springfield on Route 4.

Each of these big-team plowing matches was attended by representatives of the University of Illinois. Those who attended one or more match were J. L. Edmonds, C. W. Crawford, A. L. Young, Fred H. Rankin, and the writer. Wayne Dinsmore, Secretary of the Horse Association of America attended all of them.

These matches turned out so successfully that it seems probable that they could be made very attractive features of the big-team project during the next few years.

Combining the 1928 cost-and-production figures for the State - a 75 per cent net lamb crop, 68 pound lambs, 9.5 pound fleeces, 6 per cent death loss, 20 per cent yearly replacement of breeding ewes - with the 1929 prices of 10¢ for mixed lambs, 28¢ for wool, and $5.50 for the six-year-old ewes, shows that the Montana range sheep industry realized a net profit of somewhere near 40¢ per head for all sheep run in the year 1929. This before any deduction for return to the operator for labor and management and interest on investment.

-- From Montana Annual Report, 1930.

MR. COOLIDGE ON SHEEP

One day Mr. Coolidge was going down the Potomac on the Mayflower, and was surveying some abandoned plantations along the banks.

"Why don't they try sheep?" he said.

"There is very little money in sheep, Mr. President, under these conditions."

He stared out thoughtfully. "My father raised sheep once," he drawled. "He made seventy five dollars, one year, out of them."

-- Mary Roberts Rinehart
in Ladies Home Journal.

SHEEP EXTENSION WORK IN VIRGINIA

By George C. Herring, Extension Animal Husbandman

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During the present year (1931) we have devoted considerable time to sheep extension work. The increased production of sheep, the economy of market lamb improvement practices, and the wide spread anticipated between the top and lower grades of lambs made this seem advisable. Work was done on three phases of the problem; Production, marketing and consumption.

Virginia was entered in the Native Lamb Improvement Project, which is based on the three improvement practices of docking and castration of lambs, stomach-worm treatment, and the use of purebred rams. These practices were emphasized both in counties that entered the competitive project and elsewhere.

County agents and most producers in Virginia are familiar with the practice of docking and castrating. Specialists work, therefore, consisted largely in encouraging them to get it done. The plan used consisted of holding a few meetings and demonstrations and supplying county agents with publicity and circular material.

Likewise the treatment of flocks for stomach worms is familiar to most flock owners but it is often neglected and this was to be expected this year in view of the little difficulty experienced from parasites during the dry season of 1930. In order to encourage more regular treatment of flocks monthly reminders, prepared in our office, were sent to county agents to be signed and mailed to flock owners on the same date each month. The material was mimeographed on franked cards which were addressed in our office if the agent requested it. In addition to reminding flock owners to treat for stomach worms, other timely suggestions were given. This idea was well received by agents and 38 of them requested the service, which required a total of 3,352 cards per month.

The purebred sires project, including all classes of livestock, has been carried on for ten years in Virginia.

Placing purebred rams was, therefore, a part of both better-sires work and the native lamb improvement project. Interest in using purebred rams was worked up through publicity and a series of grading demonstrations. To aid in placing purebred rams two auction sales were held and two ram trucks were used, all of which disposed of 96 rams.

A series of grading demonstrations was put on in co-operation with representatives of the State Bureau of Markets and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture. A member of the Animal Husbandry Department attended most of these demonstrations and discussed market-lamb improvement. A total of 31 demonstrations were given with 1,066 in attendance. This work was done in May and early June and was preliminary educational work to familiarize growers with market grades and resulted in selling some lambs on a graded basis.

Virginia has a sheep population of over 400,000 head but is low in the consumption of lamb. An educational program was put on in cooperation with the National Live Stock and Meat Board to show how lamb can be used in the diet to better advantage than it has been. Meetings were arranged for retailers, housewives and students of high schools and colleges in nine cities of Virginia. A total of 11,245 were in attendance at the 31 demonstrations held.

CHEER UP

"Cheer up,
You have two chances,
You may get the germ
Or you may not.
And if you get the germ
You have two chances,
You may get the disease
Or you may not.
And if you get the disease
You have two chances,
You may die,
Or you may not.
And if you die,
Well, you still have two chances.
Cheer up!"

WOOL SHRINKAGE TESTS

By Joseph W. Wilson,
District Extension Agent - Nevada.

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Twenty-one different flocks were visited this year at shearing time and samples of wool taken. These flocks contained more than 110,000 head of sheep in northeastern Nevada.

The wool samples were scoured by the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics without cost to the grower.

Nearly all the samples, 116 (58 with duplicates), were taken by the writer. Two methods of sampling were tried: (1) selecting a handful of wool from the side about four inches below the back bone; (2) selecting samples from tied fleeces (a practice followed by the buyers in this territory). The results were:

35 samples from sides, average shrink 63.9 per cent
19 " " tied fleeces, " 60.6

Difference 3.3

It is the writer's understanding that the wool houses or dealers do not actually make shrinkage tests on the samples sent to them by local agents, but base their estimates on previous knowledge of the wool obtained from the mills.

The figure of 63.9 per cent, average shrink is probably very close to the actual shrink for wool from this territory for 1931. The method of sampling from the sides has been found to be the most satisfactory. As a further comparison of the results of the two methods, ten samples from the sides and strictly comparable to ten samples from tied fleeces, showed that in nine instances, the shrink was less from the tied fleeces - and also less than it actually should be. The difference ranged from 1.58 per cent less to 8.38 per cent less, or an average difference of 3.8 per cent.

Samples taken from five outfits shearing lambs or yearlings showed that the average shrink was 6.43 per cent less for such animals than for the remainder of the flock. The comparable shrinkages were:

5 outfits,	ewes 2 years and up,	average shrink	62.35 per cent
5 "	yearlings and lambs	" "	55.92
5 "	difference		6.43

More than a thousand people saw the wool show at the Elko County Fair and Nevada State Livestock Show. The display consisted of the above 116 samples of range and farm flock fleeces, and a wool exhibit received from the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics. About one-fourth of the wool exhibit was taken to the State Fair at Fallon where it won second prize as an educational exhibit.

FARM ANIMALS IN RHYME -- THE HOG

The source of swine has been well traced to Asiatic lands. Sus Scrofa was family name of Sir Boar and his bands that roamed in ancient forest glades, crunched between their teeth the acorns of historic oaks, or paused perchance, beneath famed date-palm trees, by Caspian Sea, where Arabs, Turks, and Kurds, corralled these rovers of the wild, and from them bred swine herds that were, in time, shipped here and yon, to lands beyond the sea--and thus, in brief, are records given of the hog's history. Hogs will eat most anything, though in domestic state, their food is chiefly vegetable. The grain-foods give them weight. The smaller grains, as, oats and wheat, produce the Bacon Breeds; whereas the Lard-Hog is evolved from corn and richer feeds. Australia, Britain, and Denmark to former types incline; these are Yorkshires and Tamworths; while the Poland-China Swine, also the Durocs and Chester, in latter group, are found; and in our own United States Lard-Hogs largely abound. Hams, which are eaten fried, boiled, baked, are relished the world o'er; and bacon--toothsome breakfast dish--with sausage, hold high score on Anglo-Saxon estimate; while spare-ribs and pork-chops entice the eye of the purchaser, when in the butcher shops. Yet the Meat Market holds not all the valued swine produce, since varied is the hog's out-put; for instance, Pepsin Juice, from the pig's stomach is distilled. Its bristles fill the brush, or cushion, as the case may be. Again, a fine bone-crush to fertilizer forms the base:--and further facts reveal, that leather-makers use its hide, and "Jazz-bands" use the squeal!

-- Aletha M. Bonner

COMMUNITY COLT SHOWS

By L. P. McCann, Ohio Extension Service

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Community colt shows have been successfully tried in Ohio this year as a means of centering interest in horse extension work. The plan which was sponsored and worked out by the Madison County Draft Horse Breeders Association was to have each stallion owner hold a show at his farm. Only those colts sired by his stallion or stallions could compete and prizes in the form of rebates on service fees were given. These ranged from $5.00 for first prize down to one dollar for fifth prize. Six community shows were held in this county and according to plans of the project they all took place the week prior to the county fair.

In addition to the above-mentioned prizes when any first-prize colt went on to the county fair the following week and won its class, the remainder of the service fee was refunded by the owner of the sire. In this way the community shows served to stimulate interest in making a further showing at the county fair.

For a number of years foal classes at the Madison County Fair have been thrown open to both grades and purebreds. Beyond the foal class grades have a separate classification. Purebred horse breeders, who are rather numerous in Madison County, are always good sports when it comes to losing to a grade colt and this has happened more than once. At these six community shows a number of grade colts competed and at one of the largest ones grade colts won both first and second places.

All six of the shows were held within two days in order to save time of a judge and the county agent who assisted the stallion owners in staging the shows. Each stallion owner notified farmers in his community who had bred mares to his horse and they were asked to have their colts at the designated farm at a given time. In most instances the shows consisted of a class for filly foals and a class for stallion foals, although at one show the exhibitors insisted on having both sexes judged in the same class.

WOLVERINE LAMB PRODUCTION CONTEST

This contest was new in the State this year and it created more interest than was anticipated. One hundred fifty-three enrollments were received from 44 counties throughout the State. The flocks entered ranged in size from 20 to 265 ewes. The results received are encouraging and they clearly show Michigan's ability as a native-lamb-producing State. This is shown by the fact that an average of 87.07 pounds of lamb was produced per ewe in 135 days by the 85 contestants who finished all requirements and weighed in their lambs.

The winner of the contest, Port Coville, of Alcona County, made the good record of 141.29 pounds of lamb per ewe from a flock of 34 grade Oxford ewes in 135 days. Mr. Coville was also chosen champion flock master by the committee in charge and he will receive a handsome trophy from the Michigan Farmer as well as $75.00 in cash from the other cooperating organizations, namely, the Michigan Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association, Bishop, Hammond and Jackson and The Michigan Livestock Exchange of Detroit. The latter two are livestock commission companies. Figures on Mr. Coville's flock show that $16.48 was received per ewe from wool and lambs.

The runner up in the contest was Chas. Covell of Gratiot county and his average pounds of lamb per ewe was 138.8. Thirty-four in the contest produced 100 pounds of lamb per ewe or better.

The good records resulted from the successful practices which were followed. The fact that 24 of the contestants had better than a 150 per cent lamb crop also shows that close attention was given to flushing the flocks previous to the breeding season.

During the summer personal visits were made to the farms of 102 of the contestants and data were collected on the practices and methods followed by these men. They all seemed to enjoy the visits; besides, each of the contestants were sent timely suggestions from time to time, although they used their own methods.

The following summary is of interest. It was taken from the actual practices of 102 of the contestants who were visited

personally. Ninety-one of this number fed some leguminous hay during the winter. Eighteen fed silage and 25 fed bean pods. Eighty-five grained ewes before lambing and 82 grained after lambing. Seventy-two drenched, 74 dipped, and 49 rotated their pastures as means of parasite control. Forty-one supplied leguminous pasture, 50 cut-over pastures, and 11 others tame grasses. In 86 cases loose salt was provided the flocks, while in 12 cases block salt was fed. The remainder did not salt.

Thirteen of the group of 102 watered irregularly during the summer and two during the winter. Six used lake or river water the year around, while two did not water at all during the winter. In 95 cases winter exercise was provided; 36 field fed, 51 used yards, and 4 chased their ewes daily. Sixty-two of the group flushed their ewes; 41 by using better pasture and 21 by the use of grain. Fifty-five of the group used lambing pens, while 12 had their ewes on pasture during the lambing season. Fifty-two creep fed their lambs before the grazing season and five continued the practice while the lambs were on grass. Thirty of the group marketed their lambs through cooperative shipping associations, 29 hauled their lambs directly to market, and then part sold cooperatively, 27 sold to local dealers, while 20 were purebred breeders and supplied purebred trade.

This contest, besides having a stimulating effect on the breeders, was valuable as a means of contact. The results obtained are useful in showing better practices and have a real value in extension teaching. Each contestant is an individual demonstration in his community and these farm demonstrations do a great deal to hold interest and to promote the work in a practical way. An analysis of the results of the contest will also show certain fundamental facts as to what is necessary for profitable returns in lamb production. These points, as well as the individual stories of the winners and their practices are available.

-- From Michigan Annual Report, 1930.

COOPERATIVENESS

Willingness to work with others to complete successfully a great project is more commendable than the endeavor to accomplish a smaller task for which the principal incentive is personal credit and recognition.

---Dr. John R. Mohler

FEEDING GRAIN TO LAMBS

Extension activities in 1930 were instrumental in influencing sheep men to feed grain to 91,734 lambs. This is more than double the number reported in 1929. Grain feeding was urged at all county-wide conferences.

The value of grain feeding is best seen at the lamb-grading demonstrations. Few lambs, that have not been fed grain, were carrying sufficient finish to grade as "selects." Grain-fed lambs are ready for market at least two to three weeks sooner, weigh seven to ten pounds more and shrink less in going to market. Grain feeding is the means of getting lambs fat enough and of sufficient weight to sell as top lambs on an early June market. This eliminates losses due to hot weather, flies, stomach worms and declining prices which are common during summer months.

The average top prices of lambs on the Kansas City market in 1930 were as follows: May $11.02; June $11.37; July $9.39; and August $8.75. The average price of top lambs the last week in May was $11.62 when the first of Missouri spring lambs began to go to market. Although the May average was lower, it was held down by late arrivals of 1929 lambs coming from feed lots.

The method of grain feeding is of interest at this point. Some men experienced trouble with the creep because the smaller ewes can go where the larger lambs can. To overcome this they are separating the ewes and lambs at night and giving the lambs all the shelled corn they will clean up by morning and turning them together again. As a specific example of this method Mr. Ashbocher, Morgan County, brought 18 lambs of superior quality to a grading demonstration the 20th day of May. These lambs averaged 68 pounds but were not fat enough to grade as top lambs. They were taken home and fed in this manner 27 days and gained 17 pounds. When they were shipped six graded as "selects" and twelve as "standards." All sold for a premium above the practical market top and supplied the trade with a quality product instead of a medium carcass.

---From Missouri Annual Report, 1930.

"A journey of ten thousand miles begins with a single step."
-- A Chinese Philosopher.

ILLINOIS HOG-FEEDING SCHOOLS

Our swine project is promoted through county hog-feeding schools in which the farmers are shown how to figure the protein requirements and to figure the cost of protein in different feeds and the cost of 100 pounds of the combined rations. Facilities are provided so that each man can figure for himself. We held 35 such schools last winter with a total attendance of 2,143. A survey of methods which the men proposed to use during 1930 was made in connection with the schools. Those men who reported that they planned to use sanitation and balance their rations with feeds having a low cost per pound of protein were placed on an Honor Roll. This list numbers 522 men in 27 counties. This winter a pledge card is used and 251 have signed these at 11 schools, agreeing to use sanitation and economical feeding.

Last fall three district schools were held in southern Illinois where the hog industry is comparatively small. Twenty-seven county agents were given this instruction at these district schools. These will hold schools in their counties to extend this information.

In the principal hog-producing sections of the State, 41 county schools will be held this winter, principally for the instruction of the Honor Roll men and other leaders on whom the county agents will rely for assistance in holding local feeding schools. The numbers of local schools which the county agents have arranged to hold vary from 2 to 19 in a county. The first of the county schools have been held and the interest has been very good.

-- E. T. Robbins in 1930 Annual Report.

PUTTING YOUR IDEAS ACROSS

"To focus the other fellow's attention on your ideas, to make him understand them and act on them, give him something to look at whenever possible. Plan to reach him through his eyes as well as through his ears. Show him things--objects, pictures, people, letters, charts--things of any kind which convey your idea or illustrate it."

--From "Strategy in Handling People", by Webb and Morgan.

MARKETING WHEAT THROUGH WEANER PIGS

By E. J. Maynard, Utah Animal Husbandman

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The pig-feeding demonstration recently staged by the Ogden Union Stock Yards in cooperation with the Extension Service of the Utah State Agricultural College, emphasized the possibilities for marketing wheat correctly in the form of pork. Fifteen pigs per lot, averaging about 54 pounds per head in weight, were started in the demonstration on June 5. Each group of pigs was provided with a spacious shady lot at the Ogden Union Stock Yards by Manager Kenneth C. Ikeler and each lot had a self-feeder which was kept filled with ground wheat at all times during the test. In addition each lot had a good clean supply of fresh running water and block salt both of which are essentials in any pig fattening operation.

Then came the important comparison. Lot 1 received no supplementary feed along with its wheat but pigs in lot 2 were hand-fed an average daily allowance of nearly 7 pounds of ordinary skim milk with their wheat supply, and lot 3 was self-fed on meat meal tankage as well as on wheat.

At the end of the 81-day feeding test, Lot 1 on wheat alone showed an average gain, per head of only 58 pounds, while lot 2 pigs in the skim milk group made an average gain of 132.8 pounds, and lot 3 pigs fed tankage in addition to wheat, gained 114.4 pounds per head. The protein supplements in boosting gains also materially cut the cost of producing a unit of gain.

Fed with ground wheat costing $1.00 per cwt. the skim milk, charged at 25 cents per cwt., cut the feed cost of live pork produced from $4.91 to $3.86 per cwt. Tankage costing $2.65 per cwt. reduced pork production costs when fed with wheat from $4.91 per cwt. to $3.81 per cwt.

Education attempts to provide the means by which people may discover and organize new knowledge and develop new procedures for use in new and changing needs. -- O. W. Caldwell.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Feeding and Management of Horses" by A. B. Caine - Iowa Experiment Station Circular No. 130.

"Alfalfa Hay and Small Grains for Fattening Yearling Steers" by Vinke and Pearson - Montana Experiment Station Bulletin No. 251.

"Wintering Range Stock" by E. F. Rinehart - Idaho Extension Service Circular No. 39.

"Artificial Reseeding on Western Mountain Range Lands" by Forsling and Dayton - U. S. Department of Agriculture Circular No. 178.

"The Angora Goat Industry of Oregon" by Oran H. Nelson - Oregon Experiment Station Bulletin No. 289.

"Colorado Drylot Fattening Rations for Lambs" by Maynard, Morton and Osland - Colorado Experiment Station Bulletin No. 379.

"Wheat for Fattening Lambs" by Weber and Loeffel - Nebraska Experiment Station Bulletin No. 257.

"Corn, Wheat, and Rye for Fattening Lambs" by Marvel L. Baker - Nebraska Experiment Station Bulletin No. 256.

"Soybeans and Alfalfa Hays for Wintering Pregnant Ewes" by Hammond, Evvard and Culbertson - Iowa Experiment Station Bulletin No. 282.

"Comparison of Hampshire and Rambouillet Rams as Sires of Market Lambs" by W. E. Joseph - Montana Experiment Station Bulletin No. 250.

"Feeding Low-Priced Wheat to Lambs" by Saunderson and Vinke - Montana Experiment Station Bulletin No. 249.

"Improving Corn and Tankage for Pigs Not on Pasture" by W. L. Robison - Ohio Experiment Station Bulletin No. 488.

"Rations for Fattening Swine" by E. G. Godbey - Clemson (S.C.) Experiment Station Bulletin No. 277.

"Wheat for Fattening Hogs" by Wm. J. Loeffel - Nebraska Experiment Station Bulletin No. 261.

"Preparation of Oats and Barley for Pigs" by A. W. Oliver - Oregon Experiment Station Circular No. 104.

"Feeding and Management of the Brood Sow and Litter" by E. L. Quaife - Iowa Extension Service Bulletin No. 174.

"Feeding and Care of Brood Sows and Their Litters" by H. G. McDonald - Washington Extension Service Publication No. 165.

"Curing Pork on the Farm" by L. R. Neel - Tennessee Experiment Station Circular No. 39.

"Studies of Rickets in Swine" by Loeffel and others - Nebraska Experiment Station Research Bulletin No. 58.

"Barley as a Fattening Feed for Cattle and Swine in South Dakota" by Wilson and Wright - South Dakota Experiment Station Bulletin No. 262.

"Statistics of Livestock Trucking in Iowa" by D. A. FitzGerald - Iowa Experiment Station Circular No. 128.

"Silage and Trench Silos in Colorado" by H. B. Osland - Colorado Experiment Station Bulletin No. 380.

"The Trench Silo in Nebraska" by Wood and Lewis - Nebraska Extension Service Circular No. 713.

"Trench Silos" by C. J. Hutchinson - Louisiana Extension Service Circular No. 148.

"Care, Use and Economic Value of Farm Manure" by Powers and Ruzek - Oregon Experiment Station Circular No. 105.

"1932 Feeding Practices" - Educational Service, National Cottonseed Products Association, Dallas, Texas.

"Mule in a barn, lazy and sick,
Boy with a pin on the end of a stick.
Boy jabbed the mule - mule gave a lurch -
Services Monday at the M. E. Church."